

Subject: HOSSEIN, Syed

Source: *Alex as comary / 57*

Date: 12 Jan. 1966

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
VAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

1. Meeting took place on 12 Jan. 1966 in Subject's room in the International House of Columbia University. Source came to the room at 10:00 P.M. and talked with Subject until 12:30 A.M., then ODADASYAN, Boris and MIKHAILOV Alexander came in (both Soviet exchange students at Columbia University) and told jokes until 2:30 A.M. when meeting broke up.
2. Source gave Subject the following books: *ROZUMNYI UKRAINSKOHO KHMUTIZHU*, FIVE IDEAS THAT CHANGE THE WORLD by Barbara Ward, *ROZSTILYANE VIDR DZENYA* by Yuriy Lovrinenko. The journal *UKRAINSKY ISTORIA* No. 1/4, and reprints from the journal *SUCHASTIST* "Uder V Osnovy" by B. Krawchiv and "Do Pysnemytai Ireno Vilde ta ii Zonlyakiv Yaki ne Boyatsa Pravdy" by Roman Rachmanly. Subject took the books gladly and was most interested in *ROZSTILYANE VIDR DZENYA* by Lovrinenko, asking who the author is and what he does.
3. Subject did not know any details about the arrest and eventual execution of of a underground group app. 3-4 years ago. As far as Subject was informed there was a graduate of the Lviv University Law School among the group, but he did not know the name. As far as the ideology of the group, Subject also was unsure, saying that he had heard of the incident only as a rumor in Kiev, with no concrete facts given. When asked if this "group"

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might have been formed by the KGB, as was done in the past, Subject said that he did not really know.

4. Subject was aware that there are poets who write their poems, and pass them around from hand to hand, he named VINHARANSKY and DRACH as examples of such, but said that mostly the poems are of an erotic nature. Source argued that this was nonsense, and that SEMENOV'S poetry was not in any way erotic in content. Subject agreed, but blamed the people who sit in the editorial offices of Ukrainian magazines for forcing the poets to resort to such methods. Subject then asked if Source was aware of a young literary critic DZUIA, Ivan, saying that in some of his public appearances in the Kiev University and in various clubs in the city he said some very sharp things about literature in Ukraine, some things that might even be considered nationalistic by the emigration. When asked to elaborate on what DZUIA said, Subject seemed wary, only mentioning that once in the University he attacked the newspaper or "Literaturna Ukraina" on the grounds that it is not a literary newspaper at all, and is not friendly to young Ukrainian writers in its policy. Subject was very much impressed by this speech, adding that it is not the only one and that DZUIA is not the only representative of the young Ukrainian generation to make such speeches, that VINHARANSKY also is noted for his sharp comments. On this topic Subject was not too willing to elaborate.

5. Subject agreed to send Source a newspaper put out by the students of the Kiev University (Stin-hazeta) adding that it is a very interesting piece of literature, edited by the students themselves. Subject also promised to

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send copies of the newspaper "Vechirniy Kiev", saying that according to him, it is the most interesting newspaper in Ukraine. Subject praised the journal "Tuzest" very much, saying that it is really very prog. oriented.

6. When Source gave Subject the "Graphic Art Calendar for 1966" he was very pleased and thankful, saying that his wife's brother DACHENKO would be very grateful for it.

7. Subject stated that the term "nationalism" has been confused for a long time in the USSR, and in Ukraine particularly. Subject went on by stating that he considers himself a nationalist, a person who loves his own land, Ukraine, its culture, language and history. When asked about the contradicting views taken by the official Soviet propaganda machine, and the idea of internationalism, Subject explained that there are many points that are not clear yet in the nationality policy, and many things are written, which do not take heed of the times. On the other hand, Subject said that he was against bourgeois nationalism and all its ramifications. When asked for a definite explanation of the term "bourgeois nationalism" Subject said that this is primarily the idea of separating Ukraine from the USSR.

8. When asked if the Soviet people have trust in their government, and the party, Subject was at first confused by the question. Source explained that the party has made many mistakes in the last forty years, has promised the people many benefits, but in reality little has been given to the people. Subject replied that he knows very well what is being done, but avoided a

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direct answer. Source continued by saying that the people in the Soviet Union always have to be led around and told what is good for them, and what is bad. The society in general is not smart enough to read what is written in the west, and even a poem which contains a hidden line is looked upon as a terrible deed, Source added that in the west nobody would even try to read a poem vertically. Subject did not say anything about the state of Soviet Society, but mentioned that the poem "Slovo Dalekoko Uraintaya" is not regarded as a terrible deed, and the incident was not even printed in the papers. Source rapidly asked "then how do you know about it" and Subject replied rapidly "My wife's brother told me", after this rather sharp exchange Subject looked at Source sharply for a few moments. No more was said about this incident.

9. When ODABASHIAN and KISHALEV came into the room the atmosphere changed and there was a lot of joking and telling of anecdotes. A few were told by Subject that were definitely anti-sanctity. During this time there was a political conversation.

10. Biographic Data: Subject's father is a director of a factory in the Poltava region in Ukraine, his mother is retired and on a pension. Subject has a brother who is married and older than him. While Subject was a student in Lviv he belonged to a sport club which had members all over Western Ukraine.

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